THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Government has introduced the Delimitation Bill, 2002, in the Lok Sabha on 3.5.2002. The Bill seeks to set up a Delimitation Commission for the purpose of effecting delimitation of electoral constituencies on the basis of the population as ascertained at the census of 1991 so as to correct the distortion in the sizes of electoral constituencies. The proposed Delimitation Commission would also refix the number of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes on the basis of the 1991 census, without affecting the total number of seats allocated to the States based on the census of 1971. The said Bill provides that the Delimitation Commission shall endeavour to complete its work within two years. The Bill also indicates certain guidelines for functioning of the Delimitation Commission.

Meetings through video-conferencing

4167. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to Comapany Secretaries to study the prospect of holding board meetings through video-conferencing;

(b) whether security aspects of the deliberations have been kept in view before taking such a decision; and

(c) the salient features of the draft reprot and the presentation made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) In principle a decision has been taken to allow Board Meetings through use of Electronic Media including Video-Conferencing. The Institute of Company Secretaries had been involved in the consultations. A final shape has not yet been given to the proposed changes.

Video conferencing in jails

4168. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of dispensation of Justice through Video Conferencing has been introduced in Tihar Jail where undertrials are able to participate in the court proceeding without moving out of the Jail;

(b) whether it is also proposed to introduce this system in other Central Jails in a phased manner;

(c) if so, the names of the jails and the time-frame within which these jails would be covered; and

(d) the cost savings and other multiple benefits to be derived out of this new system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Delhi High Court has directed the Government to amend section 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 so as to enable the Central Jail, Tihar to produce undertrial prisoners/accused before the Magistrate through the Video Linkage System for extension of their remand.

(b) and (c) The Central Government Scheme of computerisation of city civil courts, apart from Delhi, is being implemented in the three Metro cities of Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai which also includes provision for video conferencing. The State Governments are implementing the Scheme.

(d) The electronic Video linkage facility will be helpful in speedy disposal of remand cases by the courts. It will, *inter-alia*, reduce the cost of transportation of undertrials besides addressing the security issues connected with the production of undertrials in courts. According to the Government of NCT Delhi, the new system is likely to save Rs. 4.5 crore pert annum in Delhi alone.

Strengthening of Lok Adalats

†4169. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government propose to take to strengthen the procedure of Lok Adalats in order to provide speedy and affordable justice;

(b) whether functioning of Lok Adalats is giving much relief to victims of long and formal procedure of courts;

(c) whether Government are considering any alternative system for speedy disposal of pending cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a), (c) and (d) A Bill to add a new chapter in the Legal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi